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August 18, 2008

To the Public Service Commission of S. C.

Re: Proposed Regulation to allow Stretcher Vans Operation for transport of non-ambulatory patients.

My humble opinion; might as well let funeral homes do the transport. That way when the patient dies for lack of medical monitoring and care they can just go to the funeral home.

This proposed regulation allowing LogistiCare to operate stretcher vans without trained medical attendants is another example of the fleecing of America, my tax dollars at waste and bureaucracy run amok.

Has anyone been listening to the complaints from the numerous facilities that LogistiCare already serves with their wheelchair vans? These people can't keep an appointment if they can even locate the transport destination.

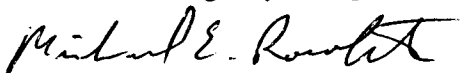
Without naming each section of the proposed regulation, here is what scares me:

The vehicle itself – without guidelines set forth it is conceivable that a used painters van could be converted to a stretcher van.

The attendant's qualification – would they even have to be a high school graduate? Actually that isn't enough to be able to check for a pulse and respiration on some of the patient's they would be transporting. I can envision a patient in a vegetative state expiring while being transported and the so called "attendant" assuming they are asleep. Anyone can be trained to load and unload a stretcher. It only takes the same amount of knowledge to work for a moving company. By the way, the name Two Men and a Truck is already taken.

Ya'll show some sense. Don't allow people who are too sick to sit up be placed in the back of a van with attendants whose only medical training will be to dial 911. Would you want your mama transported like this just because she is on Medicaid. Whose to say the attendant cares anything for the patient and won't be to busy talking on their cell phone to notice the patient has turned blue. At least with a certified EMT as the attendant there is some accountability if the patient's condition deteriorates and no actions are taken. As I read the proposed regulation LogistiCare's attendants can successfully claim ignorance. These patients are the most vulnerable people our health care system serves and require at the minimum professional trained providers.

As to my own qualifications from which I base my opinions, I have been a S. C. Certified Paramedic for 29 years, all of which have been with 911 services. I have never worked for a non-emergency transport service but they do have their place.



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